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the author employs *Cardinalis*, *Carpodacus* and *Sphyrapicus*; making a new Mexican variety, *carneus*, of *Cardinalis Virginianus*, and following a previous writer * in reducing *C. igneus* of Baird to a variety. In the matter of *blue*, the *Cyanura Stelleri* series is aduced and very skilfully treated. An interesting parallelism of *Stelleri* and *coronata* is elucidated; the writer keeps the two distinct species, although he confesses that they intergrade at one point. The peculiar mode of parallelism is here presented for the first time; the rest of the case is not novel †—E. C.

LATE LOCAL LISTS.—Of three papers of this sort which have reached our table, Mr. Dall's ‡ is the most important, relating to the least known locality. Some of our readers will remember that on a previous occasion we had to speak in high terms of this gentleman's and Dr. Bannister's researches, which resulted in adding many new birds to our fauna. Following up his Alaskan investigations, in connection with the U. S. Coast Survey, Mr. Dall now reports upon 53 species observed in the Aleutian Islands from Unalashka to the Shumagins. "The facts noted are an additional confirmation of the peculiarities of distribution noted by me in previous publications on the fauna of Alaska; and the region visited is of peculiar interest, as being the portion of the West coast where the arctic Canadian fauna of the region north of the Alaskan range, and the characteristic West coast fauna which prevails south of that range, come together and are to a certain extent intermingled." In addition to the names of the species forming the "face" of the report, we have many biographical notes, sometimes extensive, as in case of the kittiwake; sometimes novel, as in the instance of the beautiful Steller's eider, and always interesting. Particular attention has been given to the life-colors of the iris, a matter too often neglected by those whose

* *Cardinalis Virginianus* var. *igneus*, COUES, Key, 151. Also discussed by Allen, July, 1872, p. 114.

† "There appears to be a regular succession of jays of the present group between two extremes of color." BAIRD, Birds N. A., 1858, 583.—"A large series of specimens [of *C. macrolopha*], chiefly from the headwaters of the Columbia, have the front washed with dull blue, and have also the white supra-ocular spot." COUES, Proc. Phila. Acad., 1866, 93.—"Steller's and the long-crested, so much alike that they might be considered as one species; the last named runs into the *C. coronata* of Mexico." COUES, Am. Nat. v, 1871, 770.—"*Cyanura Stelleri* var. *macrolopha*."—ALLEN, Bull. M. C. Z. iii, 1872, 178; COUES, Key, 165, fig. 107.

‡ Notes on the Avi-fauna of the Aleutian Islands, from Unalashka Eastward. By W. H. DALL, U. S. Coast Survey. (From the Proceedings of the Californian Academy of Sciences, printed in advance, Feb. 8, 1873.)

opportunities for contributing this information are both ample and inviting. The nomenclature adopted is not a late one, and many of the species are only nominal, though the competent ornithologist will make the required changes without difficulty in most cases. We note the appearance of a certain "*Hirundo Unalashkensis?* Gmelin"—a species neither identified of late years, nor now determined by Mr. Dall. *Troglodytes Alaskensis* Bd. is properly reduced to a variety of *hyemalis* (Cf. Key N. A. Birds, p. 351): but *Melospiza* "insignis," which ought to be similarly treated, stands, as do *Aquila* "Canadensis," *Brachyotus* "Cassini," *Leucosticte* "griseinucha," *Passerculus* "Sandwichensis," *Corvus* "carnivorus," *Pica* "Hudsonica," and many other mere varieties or pure figments. Among interesting occurrences may be noted a second American specimen of *Limosa uropygialis*, lately added to our fauna, and *Moreca penelope*. By this and his previous paper, Mr. Dall has made himself our chief authority on the birds of our newly acquired territory.

With Mr. Allen's late "Reconnaissance," Messrs. Holden and Aiken's paper,* just out, Mr. Ridgway's, for the coming Report, the still unpublished explorations of Dr. H. C. Yarrow and Mr. C. H. Merriam, Lt. Bendire's partially elaborated operations in Arizona, and we may be permitted to add, the whole results of Dr. Hayden's investigations, now in preparation by ourselves—the birds of the interior western territories are getting such an overhauling as they have not had for the past fifteen years. The editor of the Holden-Aiken paper says, "The following interesting notes were prepared for my own private perusal, and not designed for publication. They are possessed of too much interest to be withheld, embodying as they do the careful observations of two promising young ornithologists who have explored, at different seasons of the year, a comparatively new field." The editor is thus responsible for the "get-up" of the paper; and this dovetailing the independent researches of different observers has been done in a way that reminds us of the alleged fact, that Homer nodded once. For we are left in ignorance of, or to find out if we can, the *localities* of observation. "Wyoming and Colorado Territories" cover a good deal of ground, and much of the edge is taken

*Notes on the Birds of Wyoming and Colorado Territories. By C. J. Holden, jr. With Additional Memoranda, by C. E. Aiken. Edited by T. M. Brewer. (From the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, xv, Dec., 1872, pp. 193-210.)

off the article because we cannot localize the occurrences more precisely. Mr. Holden's observations appear to have been made about Sherman, in the southeast corner of Wyoming, quite a long way from the "Black Hills" as laid down on the maps; while Mr. Aiken's (we understand) were in Colorado, somewhere about Cañon City or Fountain, south of Denver. That our criticism does not lack point may be seen in the fact, that out of 142 species reported upon, only 26 (not one-fifth) are mentioned by both observers; and nearly 100 are given by Mr. Aiken alone. This shows such a radical difference in the faunal characteristic of the regions embraced in the paper, that its two sides would have been presented much better apart; while if merged, the precise locality of observation should have been given in every instance. As it stands, such birds as *Geococcyx Californianus* and *Pipilo mesoleucus* find themselves in ornithological company they never saw outside of a book. The biographical notes are excellent and perfectly reliable. We note with surprise the breeding of *Scolecophagus ferrugineus* in a place (somewhere between the Black Hills, Wyoming and Cañon City, Colorado) where *S. cyanocephalus* would have been expected, and also the occurrence of *Erismatura Dominica* somewhere in Colorado or Wyoming. A new bird, *Junco hyemalis* var. *Aikenii*, is named, but not described, nor is even the authority for the name given. As the page stands, Mr. Aiken is placed in a peculiar predicament of having named a bird after himself. It is not to the point that we, or others, happen to know what the bird is, and who its sponsor is. The name here published for the first time, though it may have been already in type elsewhere, should have been accompanied with a description, or at least a reference. Other nomenclatural points might be criticised. Thus *Cyanura macrolopha* and *Cyanocitta Woodhousei* are certainly not good species: while the impropriety of the name "*Myiarchus Mexicanus*" for the *Tyrannula cinerascens* of Lawrence has been fully exposed by Dr. Selater, Mr. Lawrence and ourselves.

Mr. Scott's list* "gives the results of about two months of field-work (from the middle of June till the middle of August) on the bird fauna of a portion of Kanawha County, West Virginia. Dur-

*Partial List of the Summer Birds of Kanawha County, West Virginia; with annotations. By W. D. Scott. Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, xv, Oct., 1872, p. 219.

ing this time 86 species of birds were noted or taken." The writer's work was evidently thorough and searching, and the paper bears intrinsic marks of trustworthiness. We find nothing to criticise, but on the contrary would call attention to several interesting items, notably those relating to the abundance and breeding of *Seiurus Ludovicianus* in this locality, and the occurrence of *Dendroæca Dominica* so far north. The author's views appear progressive, as witnessed in *Parus atricapillus* var. *Carolinensis*.—E. C.

BOTANY.

SUPPOSED AMERICAN ORIGIN OF *RUBUS IDÆUS*.—Our cultivated raspberry is an importation from Europe. Our native red raspberry, *R. strigosus*, however, is so near it that the specific distinctness has been in doubt; and specimens from British America and the Rocky Mountains certainly occur which a botanist must needs refer to *R. Idæus* itself. In his studies of the European *Rubi*, Prof. Areschoug (in *Botaniska Notiser*, 1872, and in a translation by himself in *Trimen's Journal of Botany*, April, 1873, p. 108, etc.) makes prominent and important the fact that *R. Idæus* has no near relative, or in other words is the sole raspberry in Europe, but in mode of growth, in the bark, etc., as well as in the fruit, accords with American species,—with one of them so closely that all who have come to the conclusion that species have a history must needs infer a community of origin. Areschoug concludes, accordingly, that "this species did not originally have its home in Europe, but its origin is to be found in the east of Asia, viz.: Japan and the adjacent countries, or perhaps in North America." It is one of the members of that old boreal flora (as we suppose) now mainly East Asiatic and North American, which has found its way to, or held its place in, the north of Europe somewhat exceptionally. Both *R. strigosus* and *R. Idæus* inhabit Japan and Manchuria, and Maximowicz regards them as forms of a common species. Prof. Areschoug adopts the now familiar idea "that the Asiatic and North American floras have reciprocally mixed with each other by passing Behring's Straits and the islands which in its neighborhood form a bridge between the two continents;"—which is a partial explanation of a problem that has to be treated far more generally now that we have reason to believe that this flora formerly filled the Arctic zone. He thinks, more-